

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2480

Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom

February 19, 2016

An act to add Section 108.5 to the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2480, as amended, Bloom. Source watersheds: financing.

Existing law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the Legislature consider other works as may be necessary to develop water to satisfy the requirements of the watershed in which water originates whenever the Legislature authorizes the construction or acquisition of a project that will develop water for use outside that watershed, as specified.

This bill would declare it to be state policy that source watersheds are recognized and defined as integral components of California's water ~~system. infrastructure. The bill, bill would state the particular importance to maintaining the reliability of California's water supply of the source watersheds that supply the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project and, to the extent feasible, would require source watershed the maintenance and repair of these watersheds to receive financing consideration on the same basis with other water collection and treatment infrastructure, and would specify that the~~

maintenance and repair activities that are eligible are limited to certain forest ecosystem management activities.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 108.5 is added to the Water Code, to
2 read:

3 108.5. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of
4 the state that source watersheds are recognized and defined as
5 integral components of California's water—system.—To
6 infrastructure.

7 (b) *The source watersheds that supply the state and federally*
8 *operated systems, the State Water Project and the federal Central*
9 *Valley Project, collectively provide 80 percent of state reservoir*
10 *capacity and are of particular importance to maintaining the*
11 *reliability of California's water supply. To the extent feasible, the*
12 *maintenance and repair of—source these watersheds and associated*
13 *projects shall receive financing consideration on the same basis*
14 *with other water collection and treatment infrastructure.*

15 (b)

16 (c) Eligible maintenance and repair activities pursuant to this
17 section are limited to the following forest ecosystem management
18 activities:

19 (1) Upland vegetation management to restore the watershed's
20 productivity and resiliency.

21 (2) Wet and dry meadow restoration.

22 (3) Road removal and repair.

23 (4) Stream channel restoration.

24 (5) Conservation of private forests to preserve watershed
25 integrity through permanent prevention of conversion and
26 degradation, achieved through conservation easements.

27 (6) Other projects with a demonstrated likelihood of increasing
28 conditions for water and snow attraction, retention, and release
29 under changing climate conditions.